

# **Maricopa County Community Services Commission**

Maricopa County Human Services Department

234 N. Central, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room

Phoenix, Arizona 85004

**Monday, July 24, 2006**

**6:00 P.M.**

## **Minutes**

### **Members Present:**

Chair Councilman Steven Frate, City of Glendale  
Councilman Fred Hull, Town of Gila Bend  
Councilwoman Kathie Farr, City of Tolleson  
Councilman Frank Scott, City of Avondale  
Jerry Castro, St. Vincent de Paul

Marty Sonnenberg, Salt River Project  
Mary Beth Lawler, Valley of the Sun United Way  
Terri Cruz, Chicanos por la Causa  
Louise Moskowitz, APS

### **Members Absent:**

Mary Coalson, Salvation Army  
Sarah Bravo-Palma, Eastside Low-income Representative  
Councilman Hut Hutson, City of Tempe  
Councilwoman Margarita Garcia, Town of Guadalupe

Requested Excused Absence  
Requested Excused Absence  
Requested Excused Absence  
Requested Excused Absence

Robert Morehouse, Senior Citizens Council Maricopa County  
Amy Smith, Eastside Representative  
Barbara Webster, Southwest Low-Income Rep.  
Becky Ontiveros, Westside Representative  
Councilman Don Skousen, Town of Gilbert

Did not request excused absence  
Did not request excused absence  
Did not request excused absence  
Did not request excused absence  
Did not request excused absence

### **Presenters/Staff/Guests Present:**

#### **Staff:**

Margarita Leyvas, Community Services Division  
Virginia Sturgill, Community Services Division  
Frances Delgado, Community Services Division  
Eileen Hartnett, Community Services Division

#### **Presenter:**

Chris Odom, Habitat for Humanity  
Lorenzo Aguirre, El Mirage CAP  
Mayor Fred Waterman, El Mirage

#### **Guests:**

Racel Aleman, Chandler CAP

- 1. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by Chairman, Councilman Steven Frate.
- 2. Roll Call** Virginia Sturgill called roll. Nine of eighteen seated members were present; a quorum was not established.  
The meeting continued on an information basis only.
- 3. Excused Absence(s)** The following members were absent and asked to be excused: Mary Coalson, Sarah Bravo-Palma, Councilman Hutson and Councilwoman Garcia.  
The request for excused absences could not be addressed due to a lack of a quorum. This item will be placed on the next meeting's agenda.
- 4. Opening Prayer** Marty Sonnenberg led the prayer.

5. **Pledge of Allegiance** Councilman Hull led the Pledge of Allegiance.
6. **Approval of Minutes** The minutes were reviewed. Approval of the minutes could not be addressed due to a lack of a quorum. Item was tabled to next meeting.
7. **Presentation:  
Habitat for Humanity  
Valley of the Sun** Chris Odom, President & CEO, provided information on the organization and their mission to provide homeownership to low-income families. Over 400 homes have been built in the Valley and none have been foreclosed. Families in the 30-60 percent of median income qualify for zero % interest mortgages. Currently over 2400 families are on the waiting list.
- Homes are built by volunteers and the home-buying family. The new homeowner must complete 400 hours of "Sweat Equity". It takes 15 weeks to build a home. Habitat for Humanity is one of the top ten home builders in the United States.
- In 1995 Habitat began a project in South Phoenix; **South Ranch** is a housing community for 195 families. Homeowners have much pride in their community and go to great lengths to keep it beautiful. The land was donated by Bank One and a \$750,000 grant from the Stardust Foundation.
- Rebuilding Together is an in-fill approach. 22 homes have been built in downtown Glendale. The organization serves the following communities: Phoenix, Tempe, Mesa, Guadalupe, Gilbert, Chandler, Glendale, Scottsdale, Paradise Valley, Higley, Fountain Hills, Queen Creek, and Apache Junction.
- Habitat for Humanity of the West Valley is located in Surprise and serves the west valley. Habitat also has missions around the world. Chris invited everyone to become a volunteer.
8. **Presentation:  
Stories of El Mirage  
- Remembering our  
Past, Discussing the  
Present, Planning the  
Future** Lorenzo Aguirre presented a video regarding the City of El Mirage; the video was produced by Arizona State University West. Residents shared personal stories of days gone by and the growth that they have experienced. Stories included the small home town entertainment of watching volunteer firefighters putting out fires, the issues faced by farm workers and their attempts to unionize. IN the video, Lorenzo shared his insights on the housing boom and the issues surrounding housing and the high cost of mortgages. From 1990 to 2000 the US census estimates that El Mirage experienced a population growth of 310%. The labor market has changed and there are fewer agricultural workers. The Department of Commerce states the fastest growing labor market is construction workers and service workers. More schools are being built to meet the needs. New and old are learning to meld together to remain a thriving community.
9. **Draft By-Laws  
Review and  
Acceptance** The by-laws were reviewed, discussion followed and revisions suggested for clarification. The By-laws will be forwarded to the Maricopa County Attorney and the Clerk for the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors for their review and recommendations.
- Acceptance of the draft document was tabled due to a lack of a quorum. The item was tabled to next meeting.

10. **Motion to proceed with Maricopa County By-Laws review process** Item was tabled to next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.
11. **Removal of Organization from Commission: Senior Citizens Council of Maricopa** Item was tabled to next meeting due to a lack of a quorum.
12. **Director's Report** Marge Leyvas reported:
- NCAF July 18 CAP Facts newsletter was distributed
  - Article from the *Sacramento Bee* was distributed ***Senate panel freezes Head Start grants***
  - Marge participated in a conference call with DES regarding the Qwest Telephone Assistance Program (TAP). Qwest has an additional \$1 million that must be expended, for a total of \$2 million. Qwest has requested input on how to obligate the funds as quickly as possible. The statewide CAA's recommended to DES that the '90 days without service' requirement for eligibility be waived to ensure expenditure of the funds. DES receives funding from Qwest to administer the TAP program. There was also discussion on distributing/sharing the administrative funds with the state CAAs.
  - Marge and Eileen met with FSAL, Housing Authority of Maricopa County and HUD staff to discuss the Buckeye special project. 20 housing units will be weatherized.
  - A Social Services Block Grant public hearing meet will be held July 25 at 10:30. Meeting location is 3443 N. Central Avenue, First Floor Conference Room. Additional meetings will be held.
  - DES postponed the CSBG and LIHEAP State Plan public hearings. After reviewing the submitted written comments, DES has determined they would meet with the CAAs to discuss the issues presented.
  - The Arizona Republic ran an article about CAP services and funding for the El Mirage CAP. Marge is quoted in the article, but a copy of the article was not available. Marge will forward the article link to commission members to view online.
  - Marge will meet with Bobby Bryant the new Town of Buckeye Mayor on July 27<sup>th</sup>.
13. **Board Remarks**
- Councilman Hull reported that the World trade Center will have a "9/11 Traveling Memorial" and they will be stopping in Gila Bend on September 15, 16 & 17.
  - Councilman Frate reported that Cabela's will open on July 28<sup>th</sup>. The Cabela's store in Glendale is the only store in the western United States. The store is expected to rival the number of visitors that visit the Grand Canyon yearly. The store has a 40,000 square foot aquarium and a collection of more that 400 stuffed animals.
  - Councilman Hull was presented with the Arizona Community Action Association, Heart in Hand award. Councilman Hull was to be presented the award at the ACAA Annual Conference in May. This did not occur as planned due to his hospitalization the day of the conference.

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| <b>14. Call to the Public</b> | None                      |
| <b>15. Adjournment</b>        | Meeting ended at 8:50 PM. |